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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 88-3138

22 SEP 1988

The Honorable Bill Alexander  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Alexander:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of 7 September 1988 in which you requested bibliographic references to changes in the Soviet Union during the Gorbachev era.

While the Central Intelligence Agency does not collect essays per se, I am happy to forward the titles of several recent works dealing with the changes in the Soviet Union, both from the internal and external perspective and their potential impact on Soviet foreign policy behavior. Probably the best work examining the broad issues contrasting internal decay in the Soviet Union with external expansion is The Soviet Paradox by Seweryn Bialer, published in 1986 by Alfred A. Knopf. A book by the same author, concentrating specifically on U.S. bilateral relations with the Soviet Union, Gorbachev's Russia and American Foreign Policy, was published this year by Westview Press. I would also suggest the Zhores Medvedev biography, Gorbachev, published by Norton in 1986 and Gorbachev's own book, Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World, published by Harper and Row in 1987. There are also a large number of articles on the domestic determinants of foreign policy including: Robert Legvold, "The Nature of Soviet Power," Foreign Affairs, October 1988, and John Gaddis, "The Rise and Fall and Future of Detente," Foreign Affairs, Winter 1983/84.

The Agency has, of course, published classified works on various aspects of this broad topic which we would be happy to provide once your interests have become more narrowly



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focused. In addition, we would make our Soviet experts available to brief you on any aspect of current Soviet behavior--be it internal or external--and where we see Soviet foreign policy heading in the near term.

I hope that this information will prove useful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



//John L. Helgerson  
Director of Congressional Affairs

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BILL ALEXANDER, M.C.



COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

CONGRESS  
of the  
United States of America

September 7, 1988

The Honorable William Webster  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Judge:

It was good to visit with you at the dedication of the new Canadian Embassy and to discuss topical issues of mutual interest.

The recent political upheaval in the Soviet Union has been in the making for many years. Some would argue that Communism began its decline in 1948, with the bolt by Yugoslavia under Tito resulting forty years later in the "failure" of Marxism.

I am interested in exploring this issue in depth and would appreciate any references to essays which may have been collected by the agency which examines the changing relationship between the West and the East in the Perestroika era.

With appreciation for your dedication and service to our Nation and personal best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

BILL ALEXANDER  
Member of Congress

BA/js



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